

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BERLIN 06951 241543Z

60

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-05 IO-10 DHA-02 SAJ-01 /077 W

----- 023689

R 241151Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1862

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION USBERLIN UNN

USMISSION USNATO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BERLIN 6951

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, GE, GW

SUBJECT: GDR MEDIA REACTION TO FORCED ADOPTION CONTROVERSY

REF: BERLIN 6919

SUMMARY

SED PARTY ORGAN NEUES DEUTSCHLAND (ND) HAS LASHED OUT AGAINST THE WEST GERMAN CDU/CSU AND FRG NEWS MEDIA IN A DECEMBER 23 EDITORIAL COUNTERING REPORTS OF FORCED ADOPTION IN THE GDR. END SUMMARY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BERLIN 06951 241543Z

1. IN A DECEMBER 23 NEUES DEUTSCHLAND (ND) EDITORIAL

TITLED "THE CAMPAIGN OF AGITATION AGAINST THE GDR AND WHAT IT HIDDEN BEHIND IT" THE SED HAS TAKEN THE OFFENSIVE BY ACCUSING THE ACCUSERS WITH A VEHEMENCE THAT INDICATES JUST HOW DEEPLY IT HAS BEEN WOUNDED BY FRG WEEKLY DER SPIEGEL'S REPORT OF GDR FORCED ADOPTION PRACTICES (REF A). WHILE CATEGORICALLY DENYING THE VALIDITY OF THE SPIEGEL ACCOUNT OF FORCED ADOPTION OF CHILDREN WHOSE PARENTS HAVE SOUGHT TO LEAVE THE GDR ILLEGALLY, THE ND EDITORIAL BLAMES THE CDU/CSU, THE MEDIA THAT SUPPORTS THEM, AND "THE PEOPLE AROUND STRAUSS" FOR CARRYING ON A LONG-PREPARED CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE GDR. IT ACCUSES THESE GROUPS OF TRYING TO LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR SUCCESS IN THE 1976 FRG ELECTIONS BY ATTEMPTING TO "TORPEDO" DETENTE THROUGH ACTIONS DETRIMENTAL TO PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE AND IMPROVED FRG/GDR RELATIONS. THE EDITORIAL FURTHER STATES THAT THE SPIEGEL, LONG CONSIDERED A "LIBERAL" PUBLICATION HAS NOW PROVEN ITSELF A CAMPAIGN ALLY OF THE CDU/CSU.

2. THE EDITORIAL IS UNUSUALLY HARSH IN ITS ATTEMPT TO LINK THE CURRENT ANTI-GDR "CAMPAIGN" TO PRACTICES OF THE NAZI ERA. THE CDU "PLAN" AGAINST THE GDR IS DESCRIBED AS BEING IN A NAZI STYLE REMINISCENT OF GOEBBELS. WHEREAS HITLER HAD ONCE EXPLOITED THE JEWS AND THE BOLSHEVIKS, THE ARTICLE READS, "FORCED ADOPTION AND OTHER ANTI-COMMUNIST LIES" ARE USED TODAY "TO DRIVE THE PEOPLE INTO THE ARMS OF EXTREME REACTION."

3. AFTER POINTING OUT THAT ADOPTION IS PRACTICED IN ALMOST ALL COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE FRG, THE EDITORIAL ARGUES THAT THE GDR ASSURES THE CHILDREN A "HAPPY AND SECURE" LIFE AND ACCUSES THOSE IN THE FRG WHO HAVE LAUNCHED A "CAMPAIGN OF LIES" AGAINST THE GDR OF TRYING TO ATTRACT ATTENTION AWAY FROM THE DEFICIENCIES OF THEIR OWN COUNTRY, WHICH IT GOES ON TO LIST IN DETAIL. THE EDITORIAL ALSO NOTES THAT THE GDR ALLOWED 3 MILLION FRG CITIZENS TO VISIT IN 1975 AND WARNS THAT A "POISONING OF THE ATMOSPHERE" COULD BLOCK THE WAY TO FURTHER NORMALIZATION.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BERLIN 06951 241543Z

4. IN COMMENTING ON THE FORCED ADOPTION CONTROVERSY TO EMBOFF ON DECEMBER 23, A GDR VOLKSKAMMER (PEOPLE'S CHAMBER) REPRESENTATIVE SAID THE SPIEGEL STORY HAD LANDED "LIKE A BOMBSHELL" IN THE SED LEADERSHIP AND APPEARED TO BE HAVING TWO DISTINCT RESULTS. FIRST, IT WAS STRENGTHENING THE POSITION OF THOSE IN THE POLITBURO WHO HAD LONG ARGUED THAT AFTER HELSINKI THE WEST WOULD GRADUALLY RETURN TO A COLD WAR MENTALITY. IN THIS

REGARD HE MENTIONED POLITBURO MEMBER PAUL VERNER BY NAME. AND SECOND, IT WAS EXPOSING GDR LAWYER CLEMENS DE MAIZIERE AND OTHERS LIKE HIM WHO HAD PLAYED A POSITIVE ROLE IN HUMANITARIAN CASES IN THE PAST TO SEVERE CRITICISM FROM WITHIN THE PARTY THAT COULD RENDER THEM LESS EFFECTIVE IN THE FUTURE. IN THE SPIEGEL STORY, DE MAIZIERE WAS REPORTED TO HAVE LABELED THE FORCED ADOPTION PROCUDIRES "INHUMAN" BEFORE THE PRESIDENT OF THE GDR SUPREME COURT.

5. COMMENT: THE ACID AND EVEN MENACING TONE OF THE ND EDITORIAL CONFIRMS THAT THE SPIEGEL ARTICLES HAVE GREATLY ANGERED THE GDR LEADERSHIP. THE EDITORIAL IS DEFENSIVE IN ITS UNWILLINGNESS TO RESPOND TO SPECIFIC CHARGES AND ITS VAGUE THREATS ABOUT POSSIBLE EFFECTS ON DETENTE AND FRG/GDS RELATIONS. THE DEMAND IS REPEATED THAT THE "SLANDER CAMPAIGN" AGAINST THE GDR BE ENDED. GROVE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, CHILDREN, REFUGEES, ALLEGATIONS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BERLIN06951
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750447-0879
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751213/aaaaakpm.tel
Line Count: 133
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BERLIN 6919
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <10 JUL 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GDR MEDIA REACTION TO FORCED ADOPTION CONTROVERSY
TAGS: PFOR, SOCI, GC, GE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006